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Paul Laurence Dunbar - We Wear the Mask

We wear the mask that grins and lies,
It hides our cheeks and shades our eyes,--
This debt we pay to human guile;
With torn and bleeding hearts we smile,
And mouth with myriad subtleties.

Why should the world be otherwise,
In counting all our tears and sighs?
Nay, let them only see us, while
We wear the mask.

We smile, but, O great Christ, our cries
To thee from tortured souls arise.
We sing, but oh the clay is vile
Beneath our feet, and long the mile;
But let the world dream otherwise,
We wear the mask!

Poem Info

We Wear the Mask

Last read:
2006-05-22 07:13:44
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Added Mar 17 2005.

Dunbar Info

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Information about We Wear the Mask

Poet: [Paul Laurence Dunbar](#)

Poem: We Wear the Mask

Additional Information

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